

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2013 (3:30PM)

**To: House Education Budget Committee
Rep. Ward Cassidy, Chairman**

From: Keith Mispagel, Superintendent of Schools, USD 207 Fort Leavenworth

Re: Proponent to House Bill # 2109

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Keith Mispagel, Superintendent of Schools for USD 207 Fort Leavenworth appearing on behalf of the military dependent students and military families I serve. Please allow me to share some facts about my school district:

- USD 207 is considered a "Coterminous" School District. (Defined as a State School District whose boundary is completely on Federal Property).
- The Fort Leavenworth School District, USD 207, is responsible for the education of approximately 1,900 military dependent children each year in grades Kindergarten through Ninth (per state statute).
- Approximately 45% of those children are family members of military officers attending the Army's Command and General Staff College (CGSC), a class of approximately 1,400 majors from all military branches, and some 100 international officers from around the world (from over 50 countries).
- USD 207 has an annual student turnover rate of approximately 50%. With a 93% student turnover rate every three years, it is a rare event when a student can claim to have completed Kindergarten through 9th grade in our district.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of House Bill # 2109.

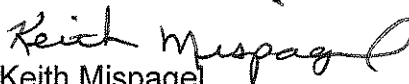
- I've shared in previous testimony that we did not know what the long-term impact of this mid-year influx of students would be. I am here to report that, due to your continued support of the military second count, our staff and faculty have been able to meet this challenge. Even when we have added between a low of 153 students (2007) to a high of 246 students (this year).
- We know, that because of your support, we have succeeded in addressing this mid year student volatility, as evidenced by our continued success in Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), as mandated by No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Not only have we met AYP every year in every building and as a district, we have continued to grow to new levels in meeting the prestigious former Standard of Excellence Awards.
- This has not occurred by chance. Planning for mid-year student turnover must take place far in advance of their arrival. Prior to August and the new school year, teachers and staff need to be hired and in place and supplies/resources ordered. A good example of the necessary pre-planning lies in projected student-teacher ratio in August. This current school year, with a school enrollment that was 100+ students lower than last year, I had to hire 4 additional classroom teachers in August (4 days before the first day of school) due to an influx of students moving in to one housing area on Fort Leavenworth. This is an effort to keep class sizes from starting the year at 26 or 27 students per teacher at specific grade levels, as well as allowing for the unpredictable enrollment surge in December/January with the *mid-year* CGSC class. This speaks to our need to

prepare for the unknown. Not only do we prepare for the unknown need in the staffing realm, but also in services provided that include but are not limited to special education needs, transportation, food service, and technology . With each area we also must address resources needed including everything office supplies to textbooks, workbooks, and other consumables.

- Continuation of the second count date will allow us to accommodate the expected near term growth and the expenditures generated in anticipation of that growth.
- Lastly, please consider that USD 207 has the smallest tax base in the state. Our total 2010-2011 valuation per pupil was \$1,205. More interestingly, the next lowest district has a valuation of \$12,304 per pupil. With the Governor's proposed funding formula for education, there is discussion from other districts about the potential for raising the mill levy to generate additional tax revenue. With USD 207 having such a small tax base, we are unable to generate sufficient revenue through taxation. The Military Second Count provides additional budget authority to address the frequent mid-year student enrollment and all costs associated with this unpredictable fluctuation.
- During a recent visit by a senior army spouse the comment was shared, "I was recently at a high-level army function in Virginia in which we were talking about school district's across the army. Fort Leavenworth School District was ranked as one of the best in the country for the education and services it provides our military children".
- Verbal testimonial from Retired Air Force Officer.
- In addition to the excellent education provided to our mobile military families attending USD 207, Fort Leavenworth Installation contributed an overall economic impact of over \$2.6 Billion in FY 11 and nearly \$2.9 Billion in FY 12.
- For your review, as part of my testimony, I've included support resolutions from USD 207 Fort Leavenworth School District Board of Education; USD 453 Leavenworth School District Board of Education; and Leavenworth/Lansing Chamber of Commerce.

I'd like to conclude by saying what a pleasure it continues to be to provide a top quality education to the children of those soldiers protecting our freedom and our country. Kansas has always been considered one of the most military friendly states. This is additionally supported by the fact that Kansas was the first state to sign on to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Thank you for the opportunity to stand before you and present my support of House Bill 2109, and thank you for your public service to our great state.


Keith Mispagel

Superintendent of Schools, USD 207 Fort Leavenworth
207 Education Way, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027
913-651-7373
kmispagel@usd207.org

**RESOLUTION OF
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 207,
LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, STATE OF KANSAS**

**APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF
OUR NATION'S MILITARY DEPENDENTS**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 207, LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, STATE OF KANSAS, SUPPORTING ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF OUR NATION'S MILITARY DEPENDENTS, AND OPPOSING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO KANSAS SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULAS THAT REDUCE FUNDING IN THE EVENT MILITARY PARENTS ARE DEPLOYED OR RELOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, ensuring that military children get an excellent education is a top priority for public school districts in the State of Kansas, as education is a stabilizing influence in the lives of children, as well as important to recruitment, retention and morale for our nation's armed forces;

WHEREAS, public school districts further recognize the importance of working and planning to make the transition easier for children when they move from one school to another because a military parent changes duty stations;

WHEREAS, public school districts must plan and budget for, well in advance, educational programs, teachers, and support personnel necessary for the education of children, including military dependents as they transition between schools;

WHEREAS, the Kansas Legislature is considering certain amendments to the Kansas public school funding formulas, including but not limited to those expressed in House Bill No. 2439 (2012), which would require public school districts to reduce their budgets mid-way through an academic year should the children of military parents be required to transition to other schools as a result of military deployments or other relocations;

WHEREAS, such requirements would prevent public school districts from properly planning for and maintaining those educational programs, teachers, and support personnel vital for the educational stability of children, including military dependents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 207, LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, STATE OF KANSAS:

1. The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 207 hereby opposes any amendments to the Kansas school funding formulas, including but not limited to K.S.A. 72-6448, that would require Kansas public school districts to reduce its already-adopted annual budgets as a result of the "military second count," or that would require or allow the State or any agency thereof to re-compute and decrease or adjust downward the general fund budget of the school district based on any reduction in the school districts' adjusted enrollments arising from the transition out of such school districts of military pupils or the dependents of military parents.

2. The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 207 hereby further calls on elected representatives to recognize the need for consistency, reliability, and certainty in the budgeting, planning for, and maintaining educational programs, teachers, and support personnel vital for the

educational stability of children, including military dependents, and to refrain from continual amendments or revisions to school funding formulas that would cause school districts to reduce services to military dependents based on unknown and ever-changing conditions and reductions.

This Resolution was adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting of the Board on January 8, 2013.

**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 207,
LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, STATE OF
KANSAS**

By: Myron J. Griswold
Name: MYRON J. GRISWOLD
Title: President, USD 207 BOE

By: Elizabeth M. Allred
Name: Elizabeth M. Allred
Title: Vice President USD 207 BOE

By: Melvin S. Jackson
Name: Melvin S. Jackson
Title: Board Member



**RESOLUTION 12/13-010
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 453,
LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, STATE OF KANSAS**

**APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF
OUR NATION'S MILITARY DEPENDENTS**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 453, LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, STATE OF KANSAS, SUPPORTING ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF OUR NATION'S MILITARY DEPENDENTS, AND OPPOSING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO KANSAS SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULAS THAT REDUCE FUNDING IN THE EVENT MILITARY PARENTS ARE DEPLOYED OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, ensuring that military children get an excellent education is a top priority for public school districts in the State of Kansas, as education is a stabilizing influence in the lives of children, as well as important to recruitment, retention and morale for our nation's armed forces;

WHEREAS, public school districts further recognize the importance of working and planning to make the transition easier for children when they move from one school to another because a military parent changes duty stations;

WHEREAS, public school districts must plan and budget for, well in advance, educational programs, teachers, and support personnel necessary for the education of children, including military dependents as they transition between schools;

WHEREAS, the Kansas Legislature is considering certain amendments to the Kansas public school funding formulas, including but not limited to those expressed in House Bill No. 2439 (2012), which would require public school districts to reduce their budgets mid-way through an academic year should the children of military parents be required to transition to other schools as a result of military deployments or other relocations;

WHEREAS, such requirements would prevent public school districts from properly planning for and maintaining those educational programs, teachers, and support personnel vital for the educational stability of children, including military dependents.

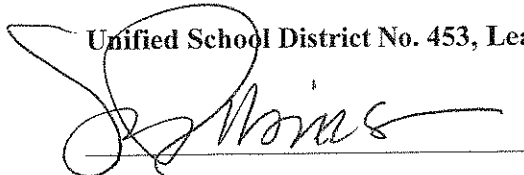
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 453, LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, STATE OF KANSAS:

1. The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 453 hereby opposes any amendments to the Kansas school funding formulas, including but not limited to K.S.A. 72-6448, that would require Kansas public school districts to reduce its already-adopted annual budgets as a result of any so-called "military second count," or that would require or allow the State or any agency thereof to re-compute and decrease or adjust downward the general fund budget of the school district based on any reduction in the school districts' adjusted enrollments arising from the transition out of such school districts of military pupils or the dependents of military parents.

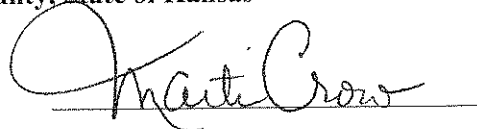
2. The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 453 hereby further calls on elected representatives to recognize the need for consistency, reliability, and certainty in the budgeting, planning for, and maintaining educational programs, teachers, and support personnel vital for the educational stability of children, including military dependents, and to refrain from continual amendments or revisions to school funding formulas that would cause school districts to reduce services to military dependents based on unknown and ever-changing conditions and reductions.

This Resolution was adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting of the Board on 28th Day of January 2013.

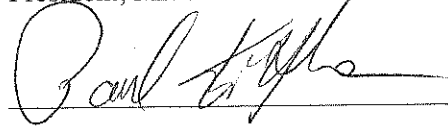
Unified School District No. 453, Leavenworth County, State of Kansas



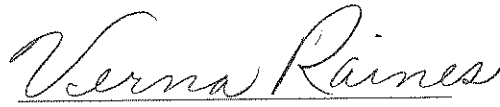
President, Michael I. Robinson



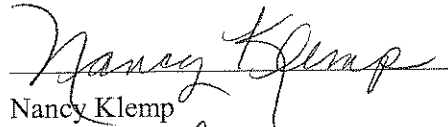
Vice-President, Marti Crow



Paul Kittle



Verna Raines



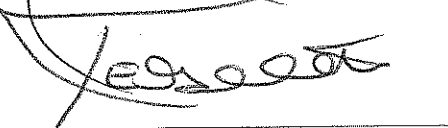
Nancy Klemp



Loyal G. Torkelson



Mo Minchew



Kevin Gullett, Clerk of the Board

RESOLUTION OF
THE LEAVENWORTH-LANSING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF
OUR NATION'S MILITARY DEPENDENTS

A RESOLUTION OF THE LEAVENWORTH-LANSING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SUPPORTING ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF OUR NATION'S MILITARY DEPENDENTS, AND OPPOSING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO KANSAS SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULAS THAT REDUCE FUNDING IN THE EVENT MILITARY PARENTS ARE DEPLOYED OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, ensuring that military children get an excellent education is a top priority for public school districts in the State of Kansas, as education is a stabilizing influence in the lives of children, as well as important to recruitment, retention and morale for our nation's armed forces;

WHEREAS, public school districts further recognize the importance of working and planning to make the transition easier for children when they move from one school to another because a military parent changes duty stations;

WHEREAS, public school districts must plan and budget for, well in advance, educational programs, teachers, and support personnel necessary for the education of children, including military dependents as they transition between schools;

WHEREAS, the public school districts in Leavenworth County, Kansas, have been, and are, a major factor in the economic, business, and social success of the citizens of Leavenworth County, Kansas, and for Leavenworth County and its citizens to maintain their competitive advantage and to enhance their economic, business, and social opportunities, adequate funding of the public school districts is essential;

WHEREAS, the Kansas Legislature is considering certain amendments to the Kansas public school funding formulas, including but not limited to those expressed in House Bill No. 2439 (2012), which would require public school districts to reduce their budgets mid-way through an academic year should the children of military parents be required to transition to other schools as a result of military deployments or other relocations;

WHEREAS, such requirements would prevent public school districts from properly planning for and maintaining those educational programs, teachers, and support personnel vital for the educational stability of children, including military dependents;

WHEREAS, without appropriate funding and support for public school districts and the military parents and children who they serve in Leavenworth County, Kansas, the businesses and citizens of Leavenworth County will suffer a significant reduction in the quality of life and extent of educational programs and services offered by such school districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEAVENWORTH-LANSING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

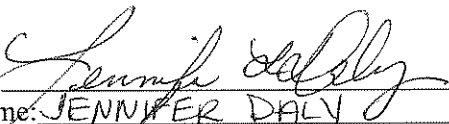
1. The Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce hereby opposes any amendments to the Kansas school funding formulas, including but not limited to K.S.A. 72-6448, that would require

Kansas public school districts to reduce its already-adopted annual budgets as a result of any so-called "military second count," or that would require or allow the State or any agency thereof to re-compute and decrease or adjust downward the general fund budget of the school district based on any reduction in the school districts' adjusted enrollments arising from the transition out of such school districts of military pupils or the dependents of military parents.

2. The Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce hereby further calls on elected representatives to recognize the need for consistency, reliability, and certainty in the budgeting, planning for, and maintaining educational programs, teachers, and support personnel vital for the educational stability of children, including military dependents, and to refrain from continual amendments or revisions to school funding formulas that would cause school districts to reduce services to military dependents based on unknown and ever-changing conditions and reductions.

This Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on January 25, 2013.

**Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of
Commerce**

By: 
Name: JENNIFER DALY
Date: 01.25.2013